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THE
INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF
MAN AND HIS DIVINE
LIBERTY WITHIN
THE CHURCH

“The Truth shall make you free”

JOS. J. CHARBONNEAU, Sault au Recollet, Que.

PRICE 5 cents. PER COPY.

5012
192-
9469

The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

1908

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THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF MAN AND HIS DIVINE LIBERTY WITHIN THE CHURCH.

The plan and origin of the universe as exposed in the Bible reveal the fact that the creation was established on the broad principles of liberty of will and freedom of actions.

And those principles are engraved within the scope of the faith of God with letters of fire and blood. Millions were slain and fagoted to maintain the fact that there is a liberty and a freedom transferred by divine title to the created individual within the latitude and scope of the Faith of God, which embraces all that which is right and desirable, and are dearer to the individual than life itself.

A river of blood has been flowing all along the ages of this world to show and prove that the scope of the faith of God is not a cast iron box like a church creed, in which a person's mind is incarcerated to deprive him of his own individuality.

Truly, faith and truth are not prison barred or human bound. No man (or set of men) has any jurisdiction over the faith of his neighbours, because faith is not of human origin, but it is the gift of God.

Faith is a shield against wrong doing within our gift and calling, a Guide in our free volition which

insures the success of our endeavors and leads us to safeguard the rights of others.

Every individual who remains within the scope of the Faith of God, does not only make a success of his own life, but the glory of God and the welfare of the Kingdom at large are the chief purposes of his life, and his conscience is never controlled by his neighbours, but he makes God, by the merits of Jesus, his centre of attraction, and by faith he controls his life within the bounds of the Life of the Son of God, and he worships Him, who has received all power and all Dominion from the Prime Invisible Cause of all things.

In order that liberty may be enjoyed and experienced everywhere and forever, it must be recognized, by the rulers who are within the inner workings of the heavens that surround the throne of God and fill space, and also with the rulers who are within the inner workings of every set of heavens which quickens life, animates thoughts and governs nature within every world suspended in space, that: *"It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps,"* though he be archangel or cherub, king or beggar. But that instead man has received from God when he was created, reason and intelligence to recognize and to accept truth in its divine details from a power outside of himself, namely, the Most High. The truth of the Faith of God is inherent with the Most High only. And every one else must receive it from Him—not from men or angels.

That Faith which emanates from the mind of God contains all the truth which is necessary to be perfect. And since God has organized our being in such a manner that He can inspire us with this complete system of truth, *if we let Him*, therefore any thoughts or inspirations which do not recommend themselves to our conscience, to our reason and to our intelligence, are not from God and hence are not truth. If we should be tempted to abide by these they will lead us into that confusion, and into that stagnation of darkness which existed in the abyss of matter before God commanded the regular and orderly march of the universe. We must remain within the plan of God,—the scope of His Faith— if we choose to live an everlasting life of freedom and righteousness. “The wages of sin is death.”

Moreover, talents, possibilities, and opportunities which are within our reach are not a blessing to us unless we accept, through the Faith of God, the bright and everlasting march of a life of good works. It is a faith that works by which Christ spake, and it was done, and by which He commanded and it stood fast. If Christ had not assumed the responsibility of His work, He could not have raised stagnate matter into an everlasting flight of order, regularity and light. Likewise with us faith without works is dead.

If you have powers, talents and wealth along with a large field of action full of opportunities, and if

you do not assert your divine right, which you have by faith, and give the command saying—“*Let there be Light*”—all these will remain but a confused mass of elementary matter and atoms. Your spirit must move with fear and trembling upon the waters, and you must make the effort and give the command, knowing that the Power of Omnipotence is yours in every righteous and legitimate endeavor and if you do, the orbs of light will be formed, and they will move forward at your command within your own heavens, as they were formed and moved forward in the heavens of God when He said: “*Let there be light.*” The man who lives by the Faith of God has divine Power within his own calling as God has within His, “*And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*”

Every man who exists both in the heavens and on the earth is supreme ruler over his own being, after God, if he accepts the divine Faith, as a shield against wrong doing. And by the very fact that He accepts Faith as the Divine Leader and Guide of his life and the Holy Spirit as the vehicle of that Faith, he becomes a member of the Church of Christ, because through Christ he accepts that salvation which proceedeth from the Most High, and which Lucifer has refused. And that man does his duty both to God and to others. And such a man has no account to render neither to the civil nor to the ecclesiastical powers concerning his conduct or his tenets, because he always gives to every one their rights. Such a

man is called to give an account of his work, tenets and actions only to God. For God has said that, such a man shall "*ride over the high places of the earth.*" So then both the ecclesiastical and the civil powers are subject to this man and not he to them, for he is the servant of God and he owes nothing to any one but love.

Truth makes a man free. It must appear evident to every intelligent man that those who are shielded from wrong doing by the Divine Faith of God are the only legitimate rulers, both in the heavens and on the earth. And they cannot be ruled by any one else in matters of conscience or conduct. And the powers that be on earth both ecclesiastical and civil are ordained of God to protect these in their works, and if they do not do it, God will do it, and punish the powers for failing to do their duty.

Unless a man gives up self and walks by Faith, he cannot be saved or be free. It is crucified men in whom Christ lives, who are saved and live by Faith. (Gal. 2 : 20).

The Christian Church has been established as the custodian and the teacher of those principles we have mentioned above, Liberty is the password of Christianity. The Master has said: "*The truth shall make you free.*" But nevertheless it seems to have degenerated greatly from those principles it was called to uphold and preach. Every church in the land claims to be the light of the world, the holder

of the Keys of heaven, the expounder of love and truth, the manifested and the true footsteps of the lowly Nazarene. And true, many individuals within the Church are everything that the whole Church claims to be, but these we are sorry to say are the exception, and are persecuted by the worldly minded majority. "All they that shall live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions." And thus Christ did not bring peace to the world but a sword.

Liberty, freedom, honesty and self-sacrifice, loudly as these may be preached from every pulpit in the land, nevertheless, there is no place where these articles are so scarce as within church walls. And many consecrated men are better at making holy waters and blessing medals and other religious tokens than they are at doing holy actions and blessing others by a life of self-sacrifice as the Master did.

It is a notorious fact that the Jews in whose hands was placed the golden sceptre that they might rule the world by love and faith, crucified Jesus Christ. The Romans who were appointed to hold the risen Saviour before the world carried on the Holy Inquisition. The Protestants of Geneva who were called to be the light of the reformation burnt Servetus. And the Puritan fathers who were called to hold the banner of love and freedom in a new land persecuted and put the Quakers to death. And while the Church is the chest set apart to store away the gold nevertheless it is filled with brass; *with its poisonous*

verdigris. And thus where you expect to find faith and love, behold selfish dissimulation. An imitation of the white linen dress, covers the deadly daggers of so-called holy men, who stab you in the back, until the very words:—Religion, Church, and Christianity are a reproach to the nation, because they have come to be synonymous with the words: dissimulation, dishonesty and hypocrisy. And in many places the temple of God is filled with a band of robbers feigning holiness. All that which glitters is not gold.

Mostly all civil governments open their doors and the territory over which they govern to the free and intelligent discussion of civil economy and politics. But the churches generally are not willing to do the same concerning religious topics and Bible subjects in general. Their church buildings are generally open to expound their own creed and nothing more. Open to those who are within the ring and no one else. With many churches there is no place where there is so little brotherly love, so little hospitality and so little fair play as within their walls. Not the seekers for more truth are welcome there, but only the blindly loyal adepts who do nothing but listen, yield and pay. There will be, and there must be, a change in this state of things.

This illegitimate clerical authority will be, and must be broken. And the old time trust, freedom, love and liberty which had full sway before the

rebellion of Lucifer shall be re-established again, for it is written: Behold I will send you Elijah, the prophet before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, and he will restore all things. (Mal. 4: 5 and Math. 17: 11). *He will restore righteousness by Faith.*

There is no cause in this world in the name of which so much injustice has been done, and so much innocent blood has been shed as the cause of religion, and that not at the hand of the world or the avowed enemies of Christ, but at the hand of the churches themselves. Is it not a notorious fact that the history of this world proves that of all the satanic elements let loose in this world, religious bigotry, religious blindness and religious intolerance are the worst of all? The Church is often controlled by wolves in sheep's clothing.

There is no meanness in this world which is so mean as religious meanness, because it is dressed in a garment which appears white while it is black with hypocrisy. All that which is not of Faith is sin, for it is not from God.

Churches hate each other and to-day they would destroy each other as they have done in the past, were not the civil powers there to check them.

This state of things does not recommend itself to the common sense of intelligent people, and they ask themselves: Was Jesus a man like this, and if so could He be the Divine Son of God? If we study His life

from the beginning of His visible inception when He was unfolded from the bosom of the Father to the present day, as brought to view in the Bible, we will find out that He was not a man like this, but that this divine and lowly Nazarene exemplified in His life Divine Wisdom, Love, Liberty and Freedom. Persecution of all sorts is a kind of merchandise which does not exist within Him. Therefore, we are forced to the conclusion that those who control the churches are a misrepresentation of Him and also of what they are called to preach, when they deny liberty of speech and freedom of thoughts, and they are not led by Him in these actions. In many church councils Satan presides and is mistaken for Christ because the church officers are thus so blinded by their creed and love of power that they do as did the Jews who mistook Jesus for Lucifer.

The arms of Power with the church dignitaries are being extended more and more widely all over the land, and they are seeking to control the work of God far and near and to crush that which they cannot control. In the name of God let us protest against this evil thing. We are retrograding to the time of the Holy Inquisition. And the Spirit which now seeks to control is not the Spirit of the Divine Nazarene. The Lord has blessed His people again and again by pouring His Spirit upon them, but how few have cherished that spiritual influence, this is why the spirit of reformation is fast vanishing away.

I will end my remarks by a short allegorical story which if not exact in details is certainly true in principle, namely, that often the worship of self is substituted for the worship of God, and Baal—a human religious ruler is set up to be worshipped as if he was God. Hence sun worship is organized where it is not called by that name. It does not wear its dress but it has its nature.

It was during a dark evening on a Sunday night that I was present at a church trial in the northern part of America, and Satan was present also, and there were six ministers and Bible workers all the way from the highest officer of that denomination in the land, down to the house to house Bible reader assembled together, for the purpose of stirring and inciting (see 1 King, 21 : 25) a local church to punish a member of that local church whom they accused of saying that the Church is papal. But the brother proved by respectable testimony that he had not said that the Church is papal, but that instead he had said and he was ready to maintain and prove that popes had introduced themselves within its organization. But those ministers were so blinded that they could not see that the very work in which they were then engaged proved that they were at this very moment acting as popes, and wore on their clerical crowns the number *six hundred, three score and six*. But the most intelligent members of that local church saw the point clearly, and,

therefore, they failed to respond readily to that appeal. But the offended ministers pleaded for nearly two hours, in the name of their clerical dignity and the respect due from the lay members to the clergy, that the brother must be punished severely or expelled from the Church. As the hour of midnight drew nigh, and the sleepy congregation felt that they would enjoy their beds better than a church trial, the accused brother, *who wore a beard as white as snow and was hoary with age*, rose to his feet and said: 'Suspend me for three months, it will not hurt me, and it may be the most simple way to settle this matter for to-night. I do not plead guilty to the charge that I said the Church is papal, for the Church of Christ is not papal, but I maintain that there are popes who have introduced themselves within its organization.

Then after another while of pleading a boyish looking youth who was secretary of the meeting and, therefore, had no right to speak, made a motion and said: As it is late I move a three months' censure, and a girl who was under the pay of the Conference said, I second the motion. Then the weary congregation got leave to go home, after one of the ministers had offered a prayer to close the evening's work in which he insulted the victim of their hatred. And as the sleepy congregation went home they heard the Spiritual town clock of Freedom, for this was the name of the town, tolling the hour of midnight

darkness, and the ministers also after putting their slim victory in their pockets slowly walked home, but they did not hear the tolling of the clock, for they were in deep thought concerning the worship of their false gods. Now, no one can deny that the above is a very fair representation of part at least of the clergy of the Christian Church throughout the world, many of them lead the lay members to the worship of themselves instead of leading them to the worship of God. And many of the lay members are satisfied to worship Baal in the persons of the preachers. How is the faithful city become an harlot? (Is. 1 : 21).

According to the history of this world up to the present day, many times it is not the liberty of the individual member of the Church which is wanted with all the pleading for liberty, but the supremacy of one Church above another, and this is the cause of the villainy of which we have spoken.

And that which is brought before the world as civil and religious liberty, when it is dissected it turns out to be civil and religious monopoly. A creed and the monopolising of the members of the Church with that creed, at the expense of individual liberty and freedom to search for more truth out of the scriptures, will prove just as dangerous in the hands of any church as it has proved in the past, in the hands of the Romans. It is not your name but it is the game you play which is important either for

good or evil. Protestantism means individual liberty as a church member to search for truth. Protestant principles cease to exist the moment this liberty is denied to you, and you are called to yield to a creed.

Christ did not organize His church to bind it fast by a creed and to set it under the control of any created and finite being. But He has organized it to the intent that the individual members being under the control of the Faith and Spirit should spur each other to search for more truth to the mutual benefit of the whole brotherhood, in a deeper knowledge of that book which is the chief authority of the Christian religion, namely the Bible, and thus acquire a deeper Christian experience.

We are reconciled by His Blood, and we are saved both from ourselves and from our neighbors by His Life. And we need not fear the persecutors for these can only destroy our body and our reputation for the present; and they constitute the evidence that our cause is right, for God declares that:—*“The more we are jostled, misapprehended, misstated, misrepresented, the more evidence we have that we are doing a work for the Master, and the more closely we must cling to Our Saviour.”* And that:—*“Unless the church which is now being leavened with her own backsliding, shall repent and be converted, she will eat of the fruit of her own doing until she shall abhor herself.”*

Test. Vol. 8, p. 130 and 250.

Is there a company of believers in the world to-

day, who believe in the soon coming of Our Saviour, in the reconciliation by His Blood, in the keeping of the commandments of God through the Faith of Jesus, and who are not bound by a creed, but are willing to allow each member to dig and delve into the mine of golden Truth? If there is such a people in this world to-day I should be happy to hear from them.

Whosoever does not live by the Faith of God shall not be saved.

Those who were the instigators of the above mentioned church trial were not led by the Faith of God in this shameful work. (Christ said: You shall know them by their fruits.) And therefore, they need to repent whosoever they may be that do a similar work.

There must not be any popes in the Church of God, but Jehovah must be our king. Church organisation is necessary to preach the Word, and it was ordained of God for this purpose, it was not ordained to make creeds and imprison men and women therein.

Those who feel they are rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing and therefore, do not know they are led by the Spirit of Satan, shall be inclined to find fault with the principles laid down in this article; but let them remember that if they continue against His Faith they shall be cut asunder, and their portion shall be appointed with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 24 :51).

Let us heed the showers of rain which are falling in Israel to call us to give up our sins and accept the Faith of God instead.

Those who like Paul are willing to sacrifice their creed with all else and accept *the Faith of God* shall overflow the land with righteousness, and they also will be able to say: "I am crucified with Christ nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the Faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Gal. 2:20.)

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